

Uniform statutory county courts  
(HB 36, by A. Hill et al.)

DIGEST: This bill would have changed the name of all existing county-courts-at-law to circuit courts. The circuit courts would have had uniform jurisdiction and procedure, subject to specific exceptions.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASON FOR  
VETO:

The bill contains technical errors and invites different interpretations concerning judges' salaries and the jurisdiction of the circuit courts. The bill does not adequately address the existing confusing and varying laws on statutory county courts.

SPONSOR'S  
VIEW:

Rep. Hill said she understood the reasons for the veto. The bill passed on the last night of the session and several last-minute amendments were added that created constitutional problems. She said the problems are being solved and she will reintroduce the bill in the next special session.

NOTES: The HSG analysis of this bill appeared in the May 2 Daily Floor Report.

Bidding on state employees' group-insurance contract  
(HB 149, by Presnal)

DIGEST: The bill would have required the trustees of the Employee Retirement System to take competitive bids on the state's group insurance plan only once every six years, instead of once every three. It would also have removed the current requirement that trustees take bids each time a change in the amount or type of coverage occurs.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASONS  
FOR VETO:

The bill would have reduced competition for the state's group-insurance contract by allowing ERS to take bids less often. Since health-care costs are uncertain and a bid would have to cover six years' anticipated cost increases, the bill would also generate inflated bids and thus higher premiums.